

the other. Well that's basically what you are doing. You are taking dollars from the sales and income tax monies and moving it to provide property tax relief and it's a little game that we play. There's a lot of administrative costs and it is the same people that pay those sales and income tax dollars that are basically getting the general Homestead tax exemption. Now it is unnecessary. It does not target relief. It isn't aimed at providing relief to any certain group who needs it. It's based on your ability to understand the program and whether or not you have applied. That is all it is. It is \$7,000,000 and in short, let me also say that it won't be that much in the future. What is going to happen is because of the reevaluation, there is going to be increases of values of homes and correspondingly there will be a mill levy reduction and when that mill levy reduction takes place, this present \$26 that Dave Newell gets will probably go down to about \$18. It will be a 60% reduction when Douglas County goes on line with its property taxes. So I am saying that Senator DeCamp has an excellent idea here. This is money that is not targeted. It is a sham. It is a game. It takes money out of one hand and puts it in another and there are tremendous administrative costs in the process. It is absolutely unnecessary. It is unwarranted and it is the most unjustifiable exemption I have ever seen on the tax rolls, save for personal property taxes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator De Camp will you please close on your amendment?

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, let me put the amendment in context. In ancient Roman days, this is a true story, ...

PRESIDENT: You have five minutes, Senator.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Right, right. The Roman Emperors, when they would get a little unpopular, the crowds were getting a little unruly, they would bring in grain or other prizes that they had won in this war or that and then they would just distribute it to the masses of the citizens. In other words, give them something. Supposedly that made the Emperor more popular. This really occurred. It was a regular occurrence. When the Emperor would get unpopular they would bring in something and just give it to the masses, the people. They were buying popularity. Okay. We started Homestead exemptions some years ago with the idea that there were certain people that might lose their property because of their particular income conditions, their fixed income if they were elderly, and then we gave them relief. We targeted. We aimed our relief, our money, in a particular direction to solve a particular problem, but somewhere along the line somebody threw in another amendment and I think I mentioned when, where, why and how, to get a little votes, satisfy the masses. So we take our money, we grab it from one place and we throw the shekels out into the crowd, in this case, about \$7,000,000. Now, ninety nine, I don't know, ninety, eighty, maybe fifty percent of the people don't even know this is being thrown at them. You never see it on a check or anything, it's just automatically, supposedly deducted from your taxes somewhere. The point is, as was raised here, you pull it out of one hand, you put in the other. Now we're going to have people coming in here with other ideas and programs that do solve a need. Senator Bernice's bill costs three, three and a half million because she is trying to target some relief. What I'm saying is pass Senator Bernice's program, target your relief, solve the problem that you say, but then save the money you're wasting just throwing